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60-5592/1

TCS- 3961 -64

12 AUG 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Comments on Memorandum from Mr. Foster to Members
of the Committee of Principals, dated August 11,
1964

1. I offer the following comments on the assumptions in
Mr. Foster's transmittal memorandum:

a. I greatly doubt that issuance of the proposed joint statement would, as is suggested in the second paragraph, have any significant influence on Soviet decisions to develop and deploy new weapons systems.

b. It is difficult to see how, as suggested in the same paragraph, the proposed statement would bring "strengthening of the Khrushchev position in the Sino-Soviet rift." It seems likely that its net effect would be minor and probably negative. The statement would give the Chinese a new basis for their charge that Khrushchev is collaborating with and selling out to imperialism.

c. With respect to the "importance of the note on which the conference goes into recess," there is no reason to believe that for the conference to end on a stalemate would generate undesirable developments in Soviet policy. Khrushchev has already discounted the likelihood of reaching important agreements before the elections and seems perfectly resigned to this.

2. In general, I have no adverse comments on the substantive elements of the recommended joint statement and, at the present time, I see no reason such a statement would be against the U.S. interest. However, I would suggest that the statement indicate fairly explicitly that an agreement on the reduction of military expenditures should be regarded only as a supplement to more direct means of assuring compliance with arms control measures.

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3. In paragraph 4, I would choose the second parenthetical formulation to avoid fostering the notion that mere euphoria is sufficient.

4. Attached is a summary of recent evidence on the dynamic Soviet weapons program which is now in process and seems unlikely to be modified soon.

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RAY B. CLINE
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

Attachment

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